KINDAICHI SHOUNEN NO JIKENBO

CHAPTER 2

1

20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SERIES

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SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Shoujo Sense

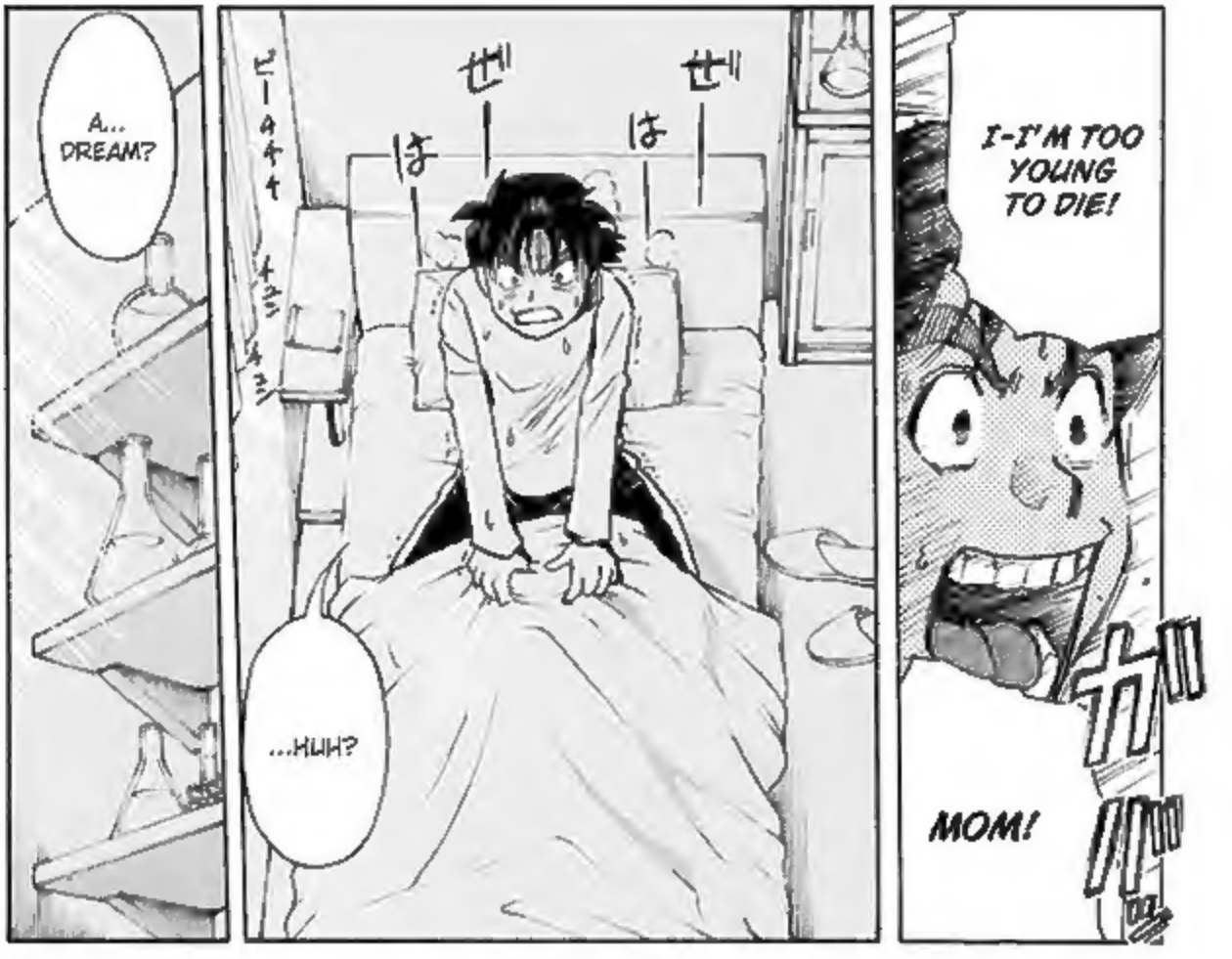
AUTHOR: AMAKI SEIMARU

The Man-Eating Research Institute Case

MANGA: SATOU FUMIYA

人喰い研究所殺人事件2

IT'S OVER FOR YOU...!
EH?
... HAJIME.
WHAT, MOM?
IS THE FOOD DONE?
A PHONE CALL CAME FROM SCHOOL...
ABOUT YOU REPEATING A GRADE.
YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY HAS DOWNSIZED, SO HE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR YOUR TUITION...
THIS CHILD...!!
SFX: SHEEN
SFX: UFUFUFU
SFX: TURN
WAAAAH !!
IN THAT CASE, I'D RATHER KILL YOU MYSELF...
NO MATTER WHAT, YOU'RE ALWAYS A LAZY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
EVEN IF YOU QUIT SCHOOL TO LOOK FOR WORK, YOU'LL STILL BE A NEET.
HEY ...
WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THIS VERBAL BEAT-DOWN!?
YOUR WHOLE LIFE YOU'VE BEEN A BURDEN TO THIS FAMILY. WE'VE BEEN SUFFERING BECAUSE OF YOU...!


A... DREAM?
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...HUH?
I-I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!
MOM!

OH! GOOD MORN ...!?

GOOD MORNING, HAJIME-CHAN!
I THOUGHT I ACTUALLY DIED...!
WHAT A HEART-STOPPING NIGHT-MARE...!

FOR SOME REASON, I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL...
I HAD A BAD DREAM AND NOW MY HEAD HURTS...
HMM...
YOU TOO!? SAME WITH ME!

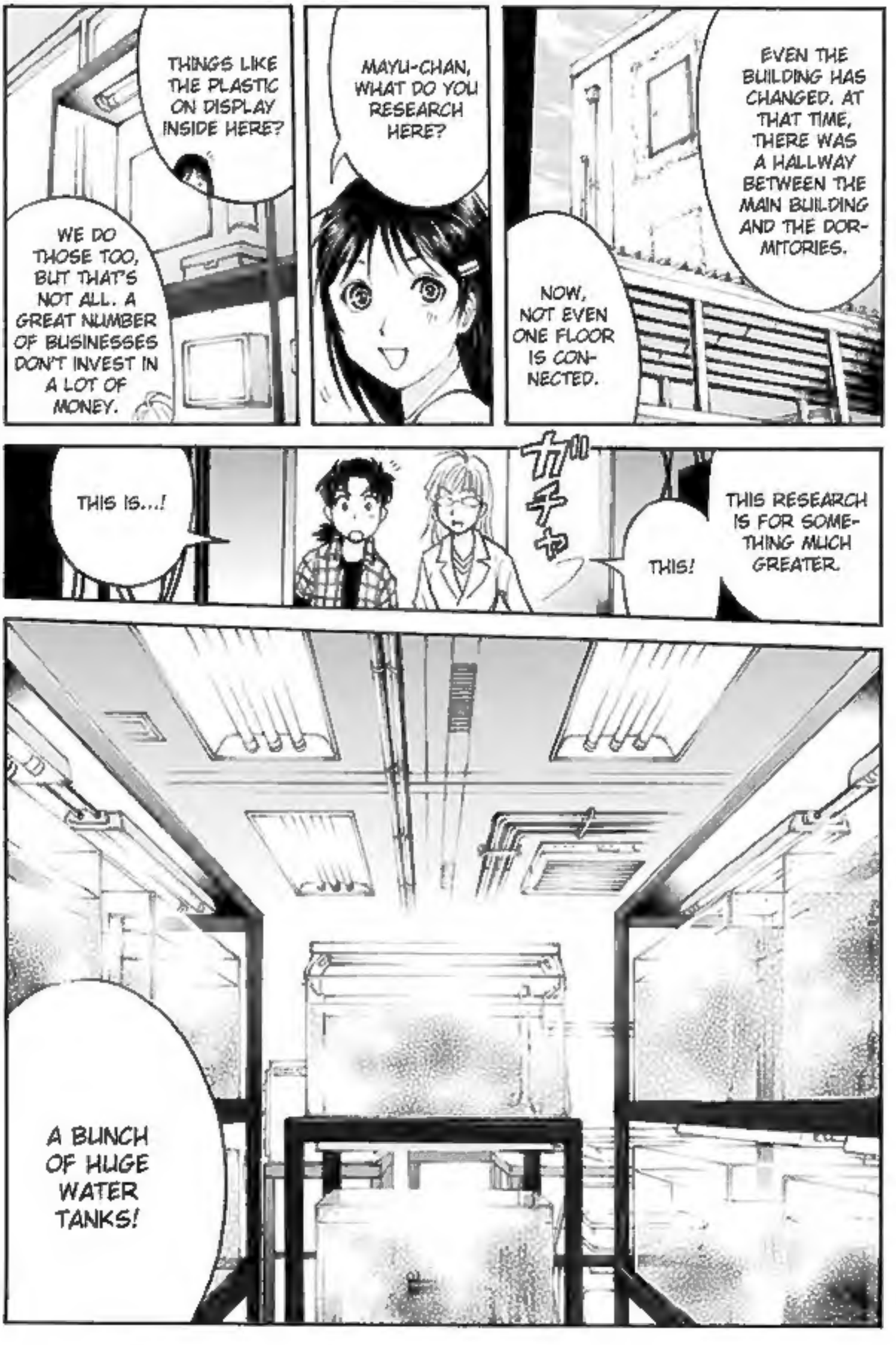
EH?
WH... WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK, MIYUKI?

WELL, KINDAICHI-KUN WOULDN'T EVEN BE WORRIED ABOUT REPEATING THE SAME GRADE, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, MAYU?
THAT'S TRUE... THOUGH HE SHOULD BE A LITTLE CONCERNED ...
MIYUKI, YOU'RE USUALLY SO CAREFUL...
IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU TO NOT BE ABLE SLEEP BECAUSE OF A NIGHTMARE, LIKE WITH KINDAICHI-KUN.
RESEARCH LAB CHIEF MIDORIKAWA MAYU (17)
Chuckle
YA KNOW ... ABOUT ME...
AH, HAJIMA-SAN!
OF COURSE, KODAKA-SAN!
BUT PLEASE, STOP CALLING ME "CHIEF" IN FRONT OF MY FRIENDS!
I'D LIKE MY SHARE OF BREAKFAST TOO!
HAHA ...
SO MUCH EXCITEMENT THIS MORNING, ISN'T IT, CHIEF MIDORIKAWA?
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I JOIN YOU?
RESEARCHER KODAKA MINAE (30)

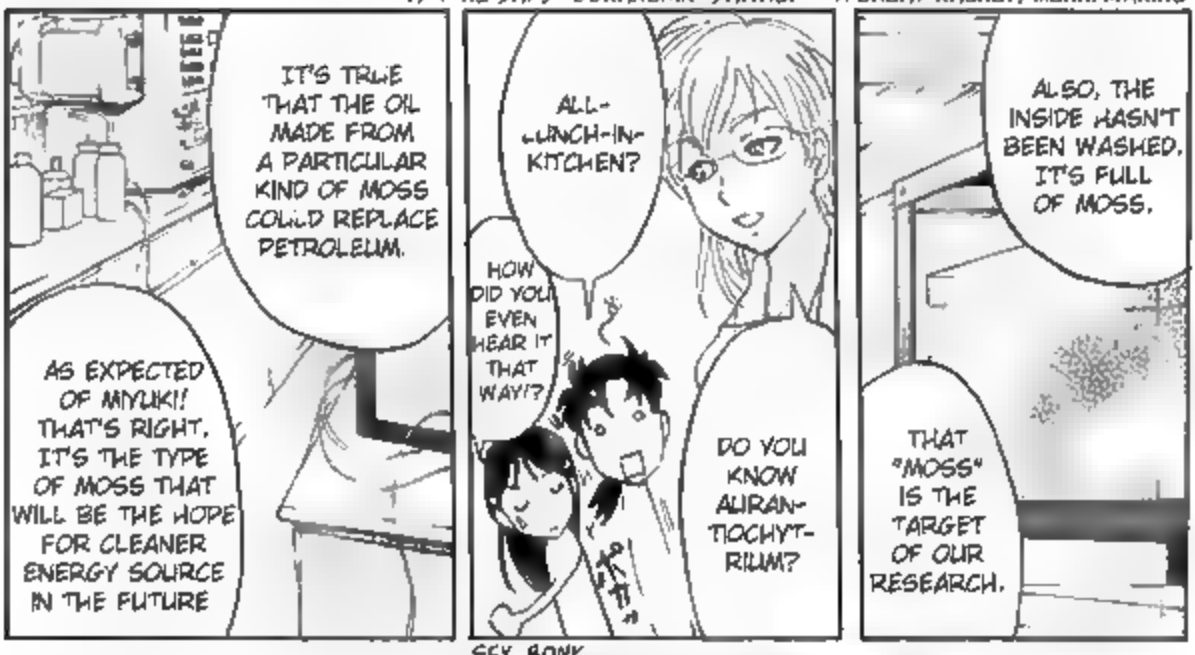
SFX: TURN
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HE'S JUST THAT KIND OF PERSON ...
UH... HUH?
HE COMPLETELY IGNORED US!
SFX: GLANCE
...
RESEARCH LAB MANAGER
HAJIMA SHUUYA (42)
SFX: SMILE
HAJIMA-SAN HAS BEEN WORKING CONCURRENT JOBS AT THIS HITOKUI LAB LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
EVEN NOW, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GIVEN A PART OF THE BOARDING HOUSE FOR THE TOURISTS...
...
BUT THIS DORMITORY WAS ORIGINALLY WHERE EVERY INSTITUTE MEMBER RESTED.
NAKAGAMI-SAN...
VICE-CHIEF
NAKAGAMI FUKASHI

BY THE WAY, YOUNG CHIEF...
IS THAT SO, NAKAGAMI-SAN?
HMM...
WELL, SINCE THE FOOD'S GOOD, IT'S FINE.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE ENTIRE TIME I'VE BEEN HERE, HE'S BEEN SO SILENT. IT'S BEWILDERING ...
YEP!
YEAH, OF COURSE! MIYUKI, YOU'RE COMING TOO, RIGHT?
THERE'S SOME DEEP MEANING BEHIND IT BEING SO HIDDEN IN THE MOUNTAINS, RIGHT?
ONCE BREAKFAST IS OVER, I'LL GUIDE YOU TO MY LAB.
WELL, JUST ABOUT.
Haha
UH, YES.
DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?
BY THE WAY, YOU TWO...
INTE-RESTING HISTORY?
IS A PLACE WITH AN INTERESTING HISTORY!
...IS THAT SO. THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW...
NAKAGAMI-SAN!
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THIS DORMITORY

FOOD IS READY!
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BREAKFAST, TOO?
VICE-CHIEF, NAKAGAMI!
UH... SURE! THANK YOU, HAJIMA-SAN!
OKAY. UH, I'LL HELP MYSELF!
LET'S EAT!
...
WHOOOA! THE OUTSIDE LOOKS LIKE THE "SHOWA" ERA,
WHEN MY FATHER WAS STILL THE CHIEF, THERE WERE EVEN MORE RESEARCHERS HERE.
BUT THE INSIDE IS A REAL RESEARCH LAB, THROUGH AND THROUGH.

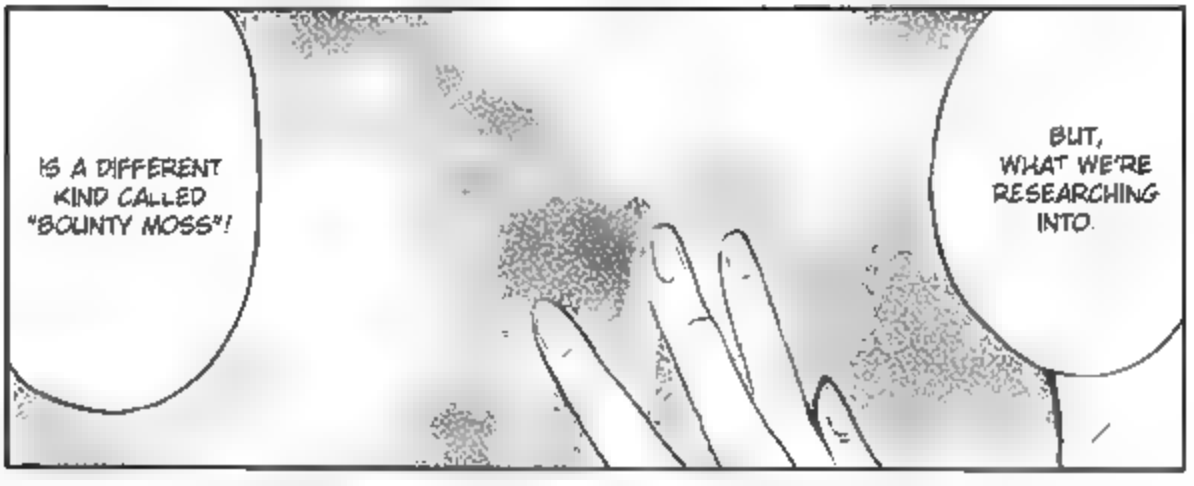

THINGS LIKE THE PLASTIC ON DISPLAY INSIDE HERE?
WE DO THOSE TOO, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. A GREAT NUMBER OF BUSINESSES DON'T INVEST IN A LOT OF MONEY.
MAYU-CHAN, WHAT DO YOU RESEARCH HERE?
EVEN THE BUILDING HAS CHANGED. AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS A HALLWAY BETWEEN THE MAIN BUILDING AND THE DORMITORIES.
NOW, NOT EVEN ONE FLOOR IS CONNECTED.
THIS IS...!
カチャ
THIS!
THIS RESEARCH IS FOR SOMETHING MUCH GREATER.
A BUNCH OF HUGE WATER TANKS!

T/N: HE SAYS "OORANCHIK SAWAG." = A GREAT RACKET/MERRYMAKING


IT'S TRUE THAT THE OIL MADE FROM A PARTICULAR KIND OF MOSS COULD REPLACE PETROLEUM.
AS EXPECTED OF MIYUKI! THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S THE TYPE OF MOSS THAT WILL BE THE HOPE FOR CLEANER ENERGY SOURCE IN THE FUTURE
ALL-LUNCH-IN-KITCHEN?
HOW DID YOU EVEN HEAR IT THAT WAY!?
DO YOU KNOW AURANTIOCHYTRIUM?
ALSO, THE INSIDE HASN'T BEEN WASHED. IT'S FULL OF MOSS.
THAT "MOSS" IS THE TARGET OF OUR RESEARCH.

SFX BONK

SO RETRIEVING AND REFINING IT HAS A HIGH COST.
THE OIL THAT CAN BE USED IS FULLY ACCUMULATED WITHIN THEIR BODIES.
WE HAVE TO FEED IT NUTRIENTS WHILE UNDER-WATER...
BUT TO GIVE AURANTIO-CHYTRIUM A LONG LIFE.



WE ONLY USE A SPECIAL FILTER TO STRAIN OUT THE WATER IN THE TANK...
THE OIL THAT CAN BE USED IS ALSO NATURALLY EMITTED
THIS "BOUNTY MOSS" USES PHOTOSYNTHESIS, SO IT ONLY TAKES IN CARBON DIOXIDE FOR GROWTH.
IT SMELLS LIKE OIL!
YES... WITH THIS, IT CAN BE USED IMMEDIATELY AS FUEL.
WHOA! YOU HAVE THAT MUCH!
TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, THIS "BOUNTY MOSS" HAS BECOME A "LIVING OIL FIELD".
FURTHERMORE, THE OIL PRODUCTION RATE IS HUNDREDS OF TIMES FASTER THAN THAT OF AURANTIOCHYTRIUM.
OF COURSE, FROM THIS FUEL, WE CAN EVEN MAKE PLASTICWARE OR MANY OTHER THINGS.

MAYU! YOU COULD GAIN SO MUCH PROFIT FROM THIS ALONE, COULDN'T YOU?
..
BEEEH! IT'S REALLY THE BIGGEST DISCOVERY OF THE CENTURY!
W... WOW! THIS "BOUNTY MOSS" ALONE COULD SOLVE THE ENTIRE WORLD'S ENERGY PROBLEMS!!
BUT WHY?
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT WE DON'T YET UNDERSTAND EITHER
AND SO, OUR ABILITY FOR OIL PRODUCTION HAS GONE. ALL THAT'S LEFT IS ORDINARY MOSS.
WHICH MEANS, A GREAT AMOUNT IS LEAVING HITOKUI VILLAGE,
DURING THE WAR, THIS MOSS WAS FOUND IN A SMALL LAKE BY THE VILLAGE.
BUT, THE "BOUNTY MOSS" HAS ONE BIG PROBLEM.
THE SENSEI KILLED HIMSELF, RIGHT?
!
THE "MIDORIKAWA FACTOR", WAS SPECIFIED AND JUST AFTER THAT
AND THEN FINALLY, THE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR WHICH EXISTED NOWHERE ELSE THAT BECAME THE CRUCIAL KEY TO IT ALL...
TO SOLVE THAT MYSTERY, MY FATHER SPENT YEARS CONTINUING HIS RESEARCH HERE

LODGING GUEST
WANIBE EISUKE (33)
UMM... YOU WERE THE GUY IN THE LOBBY YESTERDAY ...
CAN I SWITCH TO ANOTHER ROOM?
THE HOT WATER FOR MY ROOM'S BATHTUB ISN'T COMING OUT
WANIBE-SAN..!
AND MAKINE-SAN TOO!
AAAH... WHEN THAT "MIDORIKAWA FACTOR" WAS DISCOVERED.
I'M WANIBE EISUKE I USED TO WORK HERE AS A RESEARCHER
AH! HELLO TO YOU FROM YESTERDAY!
when Makine, Tanise, and I, went to sensei's laboratory underground...
SENSEI! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?
UGH!!
MIDORIKAWA-SENSEI BECAME SORT OF DEPRESSED ...
AND THEN THAT UNFORGETTABLE DAY
OH, MAAAAN. WE RESEARCHERS ALSO GOT REALLY FIRED UP!
FOR SOME REASON, EVER SINCE THAT TIME

SENSEI! YOU CAN'T BE THINKING ABOUT WITH THE OIL. '?
THIS RESEARCH MUST NOT BE PASSED ON TO ANYONE ELSE
NO ONE!
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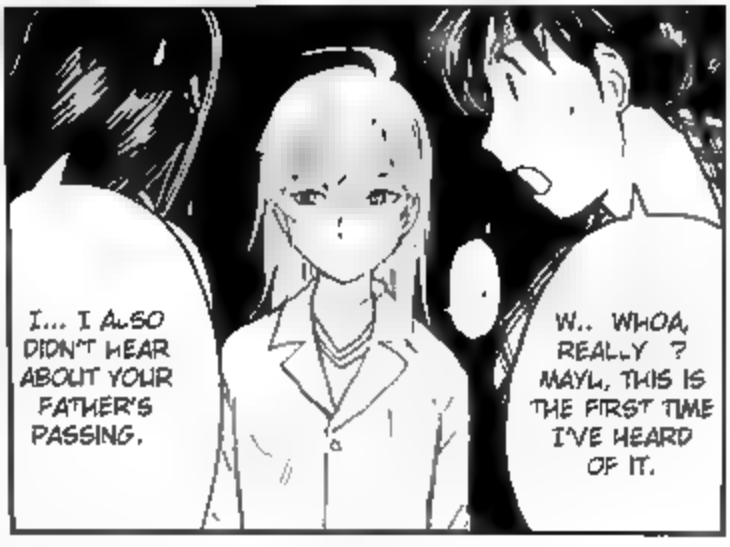
WAAAH!!

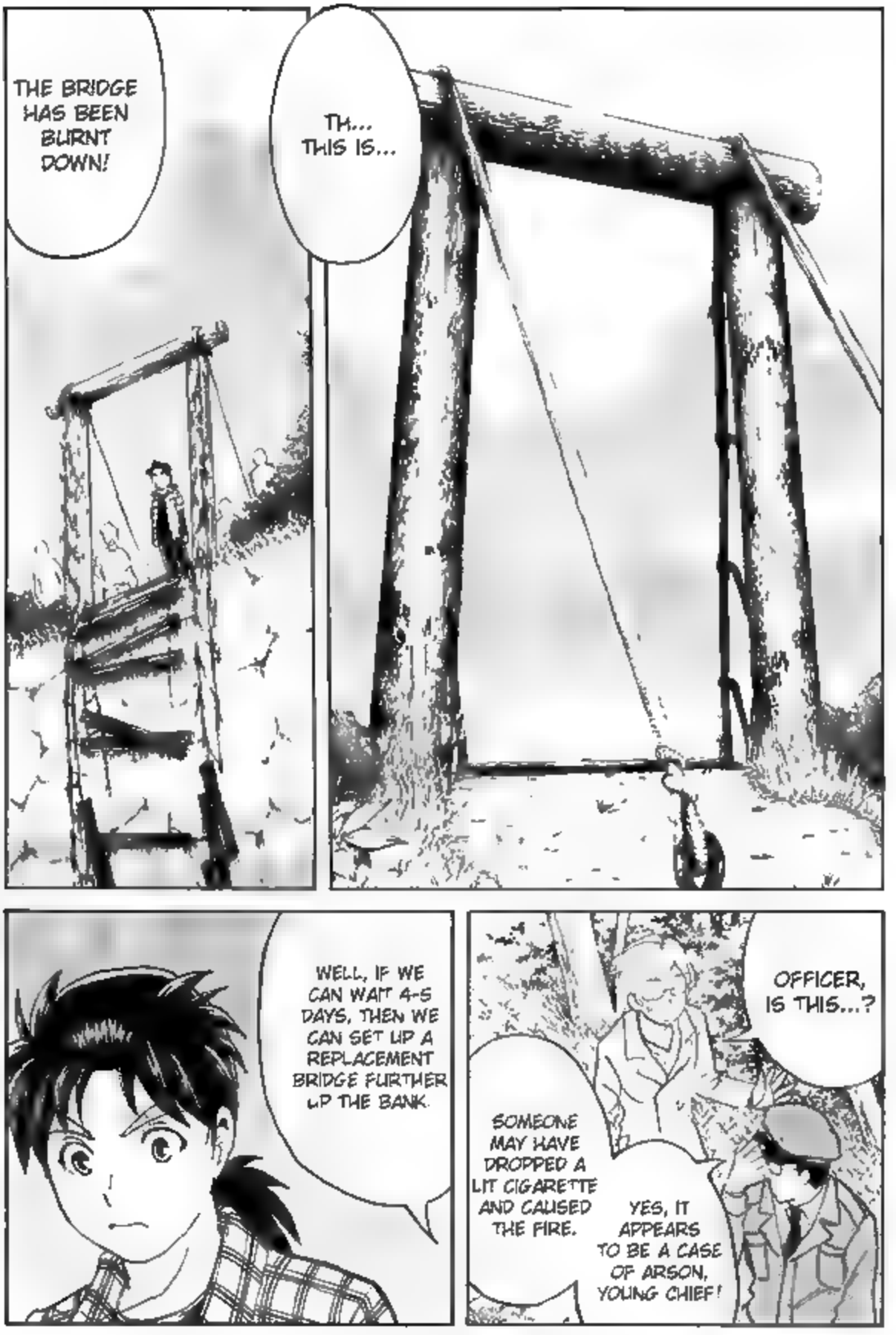
AT THAT TIME, THE YOUNG CHIEF WAS IN TOKYO, RIGHT? MAKKI. NO, MAKINE?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.


I... I ALSO DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S PASSING.
W.. WHOA, REALLY ? MAYU, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF IT.

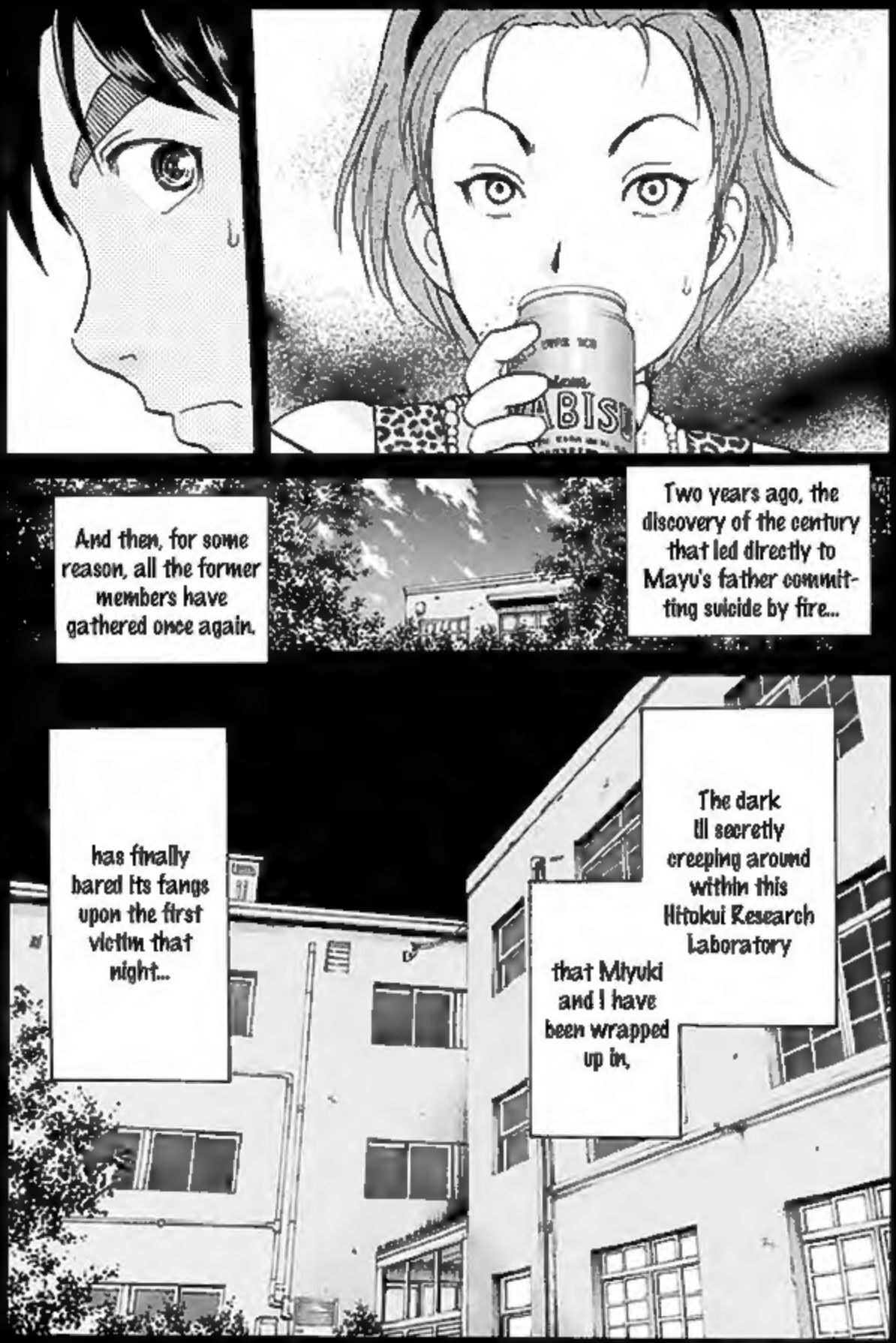
HOW TO SOCIALIZE WITH BOYS?
AS THE GENIUS WHO SKIPPED GRADES AND GRADUATED FROM AN AMERICAN ENGINEERING SCHOOL AT THE AGE OF 13, WHAT WAS SHE DOING STUDYING AT A JAPANESE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL?
LODGING GUEST
MAKINE TSUKASA (34)
HM? WHO ARE YOU?
HIC.
AAH, THERE YOU ALL ARE! EVERYONE'S HERE!
IT'S ME!! TANISE AYANE!
I WAS A RESEARCHER HERE!
TOURIST
TANISE AYANE (28)
OH, NO! YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHO I AM?
YOU... DON'T JUST COME IN HERE ON YOUR OWN ...

NOT TO MENTION ...
NAKAGAMI-KUN, TO THINK YOU DIDN'T REALIZE YESTERDAY WHEN I WAVED AT YOU!
WELL, OF COURSE. AT THE TIME, I HAD THESE THICK GLASSES ON
AND WAS A LITTLE SHORTER.
WERE THAT TANISE-SAN! NO WAY!
EEEH!? YOU...
...WHAT?
NO, THANKS!
JUST LIKE BEFORE, EVERYONE'S STUCK UP WITH GREED ON THEIR FACES!
THE MEMBERS FROM THAT TIME, 2 YEARS AGO,
ARE ALL GATHERED HERE...!

...YES. SINCE I ONLY ARRIVED LAST YEAR, I DIDN'T KNOW
THEY REALLY ARE
ARE ALL JUST A BUNCH OF RESEARCHERS!
IN THE END, THE PEOPLE THAT COME TO THIS NOSTALGIA VILLAGE NOW
NOW, MORE THAN HALF OF THE HOUSES ARE EMPTY
THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN A PERIOD WHEN THE TOWN FLOURISHED
ONLY THE BUILDINGS ARE TRUE TO TRADITION.
FURTHERMORE, THAT ONE SUSPENSION BRIDGE ALONE IS WHAT CONNECTS THE OUTSIDE TO THIS VILLAGE.
HEEY! IT'S TERRIBLE, KODAKA-SAN!
HUH, THEY EVEN HARVESTED THAT SORT OF THING.
KODAKA-SAN, YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT
I USED TO BE A FUNGI SPECIALIST AFTER ALL.
IT'S LIKE THE "BOUNTY MOSS" IN THAT IT'S RAISED NOWHERE ELSE, SO IT SEEMS LIKE IT TOO HAS A HIGH VALUE IN TRANSACTIONS.
ALSO, THEY USED TO HARVEST A MUSHROOM CALLED THE "HITOKUI CATEPILLAR FUNGUS", WHICH WAS USED AS CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE TO TREAT CANCER!
THE BRIDGE THAT LEADS TO THE VILLAGE ...
NAKA-GAMI-SAN!?


THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN BURNT DOWN!
TH... THIS IS...
WELL, IF WE CAN WAIT 4-5 DAYS, THEN WE CAN SET UP A REPLACEMENT BRIDGE FURTHER UP THE BANK.
OFFICER, IS THIS...?
SOMEONE MAY HAVE DROPPED A LIT CIGARETTE AND CAUSED THE FIRE.
YES, IT APPEARS TO BE A CASE OF ARSON, YOUNG CHIEF!

WE CAN TELL THE "COMPANY" THAT WE'RE ON AN EXTENDED BUSINESS TRIP.
IT'S JUST 4-5 DAYS, RIGHT?
RELAX, MAKKI!
ARE YOU SERIOUS!? THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND HERE IS PRETTY BAD, AND WE CAN'T EVEN TAKE THE HELICOPTER!
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS...
...
WE'RE UNDER "COMPANY ORDERS" TO COME HERE, YOU KNOW.
LET'S JUST ENJOY OURSELVES HERE, OTOHIKO!
THERE'S NO HELPING IT... WE'LL HAVE TO STAY FOR ANOTHER WEEK.
IF AYANE'S FINE WITH IT, THEN IT'S OK!
IT'S LIKE FROM A MOVIE!!
THE BRIDGE REALLY WAS BURNT DOWN!
TOURIST
ZAIZEN OTOHIKO (28)
WHOA, AWESOME!! LOOK, AYANE!


Two years ago, the discovery of the century that led directly to Mayu's father committing suicide by fire...
And then, for some reason, all the former members have gathered once again.
The dark ill secretly creeping around within this Hitokui Research Laboratory
that Miyuki and I have been wrapped up in,
has finally bared its fangs upon the first victim that night...

STOP!! STOP IT, PLEASE!!
WAAAH !!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT...
FORGIVE ME!
THE BAD ONE IS THAT PERSON!!
IT'S NOT...
IT'S NOT ME!!

SFX: WAAAAAAAH!